

1                                   **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 110**

2           (By Delegates By Delegates Morgan, Stephens, Cann, Butcher,  
3       Ferns, Givens, Hall, Hartman, Hatfield, Jones, Martin, Phillips,  
4       R., Staggers, Swartzmiller, Talbott, Azinger, Howell, Kump,  
5                                   O'Neal, Nelson, Romine and Storch)

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7           (Originating in the Committee on Government Organization;

8                                   February 25, 2011)

9       Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance authorize  
10           a study regarding Licensed Professional Counselors being  
11           reimbursed through Medicaid.

12           WHEREAS, Statute provides that Licensed Professional Counselors  
13       (LPCs) can diagnose and treat in the state of West Virginia,  
14       however the Medicaid program does not allow LPCs to bill  
15       independent of other licensed professionals; and

16           WHEREAS, Citizens in rural areas of the state do not have  
17       adequate access to licensed professional counseling therapy; and

18           WHEREAS, LPCs have extensive training, education and rigorous  
19       standards to obtain certification; and

20           WHEREAS, Currently there are 1,041 LPCs practicing in the  
21       state; and

22           WHEREAS, Most insurers available to serve the needs of the  
23       people of West Virginia, including the Public Employees Insurance  
24       Agency, recognize the LPC profession for billing purposes; and

25           WHEREAS, Currently 17 states recognize LPCs as independent  
26       mental health professionals who can bill Medicaid directly;

1       therefore, be it

2               *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

3               That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby  
4       requested to authorize a study regarding Licensed Professional  
5       Counselors being reimbursed through Medicaid; and be it

6               *Further Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Government and  
7       Finance report to the Regular Session of the Legislature, 2012, on  
8       its findings, conclusions and recommendations, together with drafts  
9       of any legislation necessary to effectuate its recommendations and,  
10       be it

11              *Further Resolved,* That the Legislative expenses necessary to  
12       conduct this study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary  
13       legislation be paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint  
14       Committee on Government and Finance.